

Title: **Governor Haley proclaims October Domestic Violence Awareness Month**
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Governor Haley proclaims October Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Columbia, SC- The South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) is pleased to announce that Governor Nikki R. Haley has declared October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In recognition of this proclamation, SCCADVASA urges citizens of South Carolina to join their voices and efforts with others around the nation to recognize the deadly impact of domestic violence in our communities. Domestic Violence Awareness Month calls attention to the importance of community collaboration and civic involvement to eradicate domestic violence and sexual assault.

South Carolina again ranked first in the nation for women murdered by men, with a rate of 2.32 per 100,000, according to the new Violence Policy Center (VPC) report When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2013 Homicide Data. This is the 18th year in a row that South Carolina has ranked in the top 10 states for

the rate of women murdered by men and the fourth year in which our state has been identified as having the highest lethality rate by this count. The rate of 2.32 per 100,000 is over twice the national average of 1.09 per 100,000. Of the homicide victims who knew their offenders, 62% were murdered by a husband, common-law husband, ex-husband, or boyfriend. Further, for homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 71% of female victims were shot and killed with guns. This year's report compiles and utilizes 2013 data, the most recent year for which data is available.

"The crime of domestic violence violates a person's privacy, dignity, security and humanity through the systematic use of physical, sexual and/or psychological assault or abuse in order to exert control over that individual," said Governor Haley in her proclamation released on September 29.

The statewide Domestic Violence Task Force convened by Governor Haley recently

issued a report containing 50 recommendations for needed changes in the systemic and community response to the crime of domestic violence. In May, South Carolina's Legislature passed reforms in domestic violence laws that aim to increase accountability for offenders, provides for state law prohibitions on the possession of firearms by anyone convicted of domestic violence and requires prevention education for students in our schools.

On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States, equating to more than 10 million assaults each year. In South Carolina alone, more than 36,000 victims report domestic violence incidents annually to law enforcement statewide, according to the SC Attorney General's office.

To learn more regarding Domestic Violence Awareness Month or to support your local domestic violence organization visit www.scsaysnomore.org



Title: **South Carolina's biblical flood of 2015**

Author: BY ANNA LONG

Size: 148.8 square inch

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South Carolina's biblical flood of 2015

BY ANNA LONG

Beginning early Friday morning, October 2, and continuing on through Monday, rain has pounded the midlands of S.C. causing major flooding in areas where flooding is not frequently found in the vocabulary.

Batesburg-Leesville has been very fortunate in that no one had to be rescued from flooded vehicles or homes, very few streets had to be closed, SCE&G customers had power, and businesses were open. Even though B-L received more than 17+ inches of rain, there was no major flooding in this area.

B-L Mayor Rita Crapps issued this statement Monday morning, "This is the type of excitement we are thankful comes rarely. I, for one, was thinking the forecasters were excited and surely the estimates were not quite accurate. While we did not get the 17" inches of rain I saw in one prediction, we absolutely had the lion's share. I am glad that particular estimate missed its mark."

"I want to say, after having witnessed and participated in this emergency, our Town is in excellent hands. Ted Luckadoo and I spent hours riding the Town and seeing the problems first hand. Chief Oswald, Tim Schumpert, and Jay Hendrix made absolutely certain our citizens were safe. The PD was on point all night watching for road flooding and any hazards that cropped up. The DPW worked to move water off the Town Pond as rapidly as possible. The Waste Water Treatment Plant ran wide open to handle all the water flowing into it, as well."

"The FD and Street Dept. stayed busy putting out barricades when streets had to be closed. Firemen helped guarantee the safety of homeowners on flooded streets. Additionally, the FD was instrumental in keeping the Town Pond contained. Bobby Hallman, a fireman, manned a pumper truck and siphoned water off the pond that helped relieve pressure on the dam. It may seem like a tiny effort in such a large body of water, but it certainly helped. The pond did not overflow its dam."

"While we did not receive the volume of rain some of our neighbors did, our cup runneth over. I so deeply appreciate the professionalism and efforts of all. The Town Manager and I cannot praise staff enough. From the Manager on down, we are in good hands, I am confident of that."

On Sunday, a curfew was put into place by Crapps and the BLPD as a precautionary measure issued by the Lexington County Sheriff's Office. All of Lexington County was placed on the curfew which ran from 6 p.m. Sunday night to 6 a.m. Monday morning. In addition all Lexington District Three Schools were closed Monday.

Yet, there is more trouble to come because of flooding. Rivers will continue to rise in the state for several more days. Governor Nikki Haley said, "This is an incident we've never dealt with before. We are at a 1,000-year level of rain. That's how big this is."

This historic flooding has caused at least eleven deaths, interstates had to be shut down and search crews hurried to rescue those trapped by waters that continued to rise.

On Saturday, President Barack Obama declared state of emergency in S.C. due to excessive flooding making federal emergency funds available.

Columbia was one of the hardest hit areas in the state with flooded homes, businesses, and crumbling streets. Countless scenes of homes and vehicles covered by flood waters were carried on all Columbia television stations. Reporters on Polo Road in Columbia had cameras rolling as sections of the street fell away onto a four inch gas line. SCE&G workers were in place to secure the line before it was breached.

Haley announced Monday morning that 381 roads were closed, 127 bridges were down, and

more than two dozen shelters were open. Over two thousand law enforcement personnel and transportation department workers are on duty. Utility crews are working diligently trying to restore service to 30,000 customers.

A statement issued by The National Weather Service said Sunday was the wettest day in the history of Columbia. Haley said, "This is different than a hurricane because it is water, it is slow moving, and it is sitting. We can't just move the water out."

South Carolina was drenched by a system made up of an unusual combination of weather conditions. It involved a slow-moving low pressure system which was unusually deep for this time of year. Even though Hurricane Joaquin was not close to the state, moisture was pulled from it to add wallop to the extreme weather.

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So much rain fell on S.C. and areas in other surrounding states that weather experts were astonished. "The flooding is unprecedented and historical," said Dr. Marshall Shepherd, a meteorologist and director of the atmospheric sciences program at the University of Georgia.

Many unusual events occurred during the flooding:

- Coffins are rising from the saturated ground in Charleston and Orangeburg.

- Water moccasins escaped rising waters by entering some apartment buildings in Columbia.

- SCE&G released water from the Lake Murray Dam Sunday morning. The last time the dam opened its gates was in 1969.

- An alligator was spotted swimming in Finlay Park in Columbia and through the flooded streets of Shadowmoss Plantation in West Ashley.

- The historic Gervais St. Bridge has been closed down indefinitely because of concerns over its structural integrity.

- Residents of Columbia, Ft. Jackson and the USC campus are without water and will be without for another three to four days.

- Five hospitals in Columbia could be evacuated due to lack of water. According to the SC Emergency Management Division Palmetto Park Ridge, Palmetto Baptist, Palmetto Richland, Providence, and Dorn VA Medical Center may be evacuated because the lack of water causes problems for patients and the fire suppression systems.

There were several road closures in Batesburg-Leesville over the weekend:

- Frances Street which remained closed Monday.

- Gregg Street, which remained closed Monday.

- US Hwy. 1 at Broad St.
- Hall St.
- Edisto St.
- South Oak at Ash Street.
- Duncan St.
- Shealy Road at Amos St.
- Liberty St.
- Academy St.
- Armory St.

This is the official list from the BLPD.

In B-L there did not seem to be any major damage or at least none that had been reported to the police department. Tree limbs were down as were some of the larger old trees in town. One home owner on Peachtree Street reported 30 inches of water in their basement. As a whole the town of B-L was very lucky not to have been hit harder by the once in a 1000 years historic system.

The Red Cross needs your help!!

This unprecedented rain event and flooding has resulted in disaster for many people and they need your help. The best way to help a disaster victim is through a financial donation to the Red Cross. Financial contributions allow the Red Cross to purchase exactly what is needed for the disaster relief operation. Monetary donations to charity also enable the Red Cross to purchase relief supplies close to the disaster site which avoids delays and transportation costs in getting basic necessities to disaster victims. Because the affected area has generally experienced significant economic loss, purchasing relief supplies in or close to the disaster site also helps to stimulate the weakened local economy. (www.redcross.org)

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B-L National Guard Motorpool at Mitchell St. and Armory St. *Photo by Trey Bruner.*



Twin City Church of Christ at Mitchell St. and Highland Ave. *Photo by Doug Bruner.*



Devils Backbone Rd. at Barr Pond. *Photo by Austin Stone.*

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Shady Branch Rd. near Lightwood Knot between Leesville and Gilbert. *Photo by Rachel Gantt.*

Title: **Attorney General Alan Wilson announces price gouging statute in full effect**
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Attorney General Alan Wilson announces price gouging statute in full effect

(COLUMBIA, SC) – South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson reminded South Carolinians that the price gouging statute is in effect upon notice that Governor Haley issued a state of emergency.

“As we continue to recover from the catastrophic damage caused to our state, we will see many neighbors helping each other rebuild. However, we may also see some looking to unfairly take advantage of the situation through price gouging of food, gasoline, lodging, water and any other commodities as defined by the statute. Pursuant to state law, price gouging constitutes a criminal violation and an unfair trade practice.

I urge citizens to remain vigilant and notify my office immediately if you believe you have witnessed or are aware of price gouging. Please email any examples or documentation to info@scag.gov; tweet photos or examples tagging @SCPriceGouging; or call 803-737-3953 if you have witnessed a likely violation.”

The price gouging law (SC 39-5-145) is a general prohibition on unconscionable prices during times of disaster. It is in effect for the next 15 days. Price gougers can be charged for excessive pricing, a misdemeanor offense punishable with a \$1,000 fine and/or 30 days in jail.

The language of the price gouging statute and a link to a related 2014 Attorney General's office opinion is attached below.

SECTION 39-5-145. Price gouging during emergency; definitions; penalty; evidence of knowledge or intent.

(A) As used in this section:

(1) "Abnormal disruption of the market" means a change in the market for a commodity in a part of South Carolina, whether actual or imminently threatened, resulting from stress of weather, forces of nature, failure or shortage of electric power or other source of energy, strike, civil disorder, or other cause that constitutes the basis for an out-of-state declaration.

(2) "Commodity" means goods, services, materials, merchandise, supplies, equipment, resources, or other articles of commerce, and includes, without limitation, food, water, ice, chemicals, petroleum products, and lumber essential for consumption or use as a direct result of a declared state of emergency.

(3) "Notice of an abnormal disruption of the

market" means notice given by the South Carolina Attorney General of an abnormal disruption of the market.

(4) "Out-of-state declaration" means a declaration of a state of emergency, state of disaster, or similar declaration by the President of the United States.

(5)(a) "Unconscionable price" means an amount charged which:

(i) represents a gross disparity between the price of the commodity or rental or lease of a dwelling unit, including a motel or hotel unit, or other temporary lodging, or self-storage facility that is the subject of the offer or transaction and the average price at which that commodity or dwelling unit, including a motel or hotel unit, or other temporary lodging, or self-storage facility was rented, leased, sold, or offered for rent or sale in the usual course of business during the thirty days immediately before a declaration of a state of emergency, and the increase in the amount charged is not attributable to additional costs incurred in connection with the rental or sale of the commodity or rental or lease of the dwelling unit, including a motel or hotel unit, or other temporary lodging, or self-storage facility, or local, regional, national, or international market trends; or

(ii) grossly exceeds the average price at which the same or similar commodity, dwelling unit, including a motel or hotel unit, or other temporary lodging, or self-storage facility was readily obtainable in the trade area during the thirty days immediately before a declaration of a state of emergency, and the increase in the amount charged is not attributable to additional costs incurred in connection with the rental or sale of the commodity or rental or lease of the dwelling unit, including a motel or hotel unit, or other temporary lodging, or self-storage facility, or local, regional, national, or international market trends.

(b) It is prima facie evidence that a price is unconscionable if it meets the definition of item (i) or (ii).

(B)(1) Upon a declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor, it is unlawful and a violation of this article for a person or his agent or employee to:

(a) rent or sell or offer to rent or sell a commodity at an unconscionable price within the area for which the state of emergency is declared; or

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(b) impose unconscionable prices for the rental or lease of a dwelling unit, including a motel or hotel unit, or other temporary lodging, or self-storage facility within the area for which the state of emergency is declared.

(2) This prohibition remains in effect until the declaration expires or is terminated.

(C)(1) Upon a declaration of a state of disaster by the President, in which the disaster area includes all or a portion of the State of South Carolina, it is unlawful and a violation of this article for a person or his agent or employee in this State to:

(a) rent or sell or offer to rent or sell a commodity at an unconscionable price within the area for which the state of disaster is declared; or

(b) impose unconscionable prices for the rental or lease of a dwelling unit, including a motel or hotel unit, or other temporary lodging, or self-storage facility within the area for which the state of disaster is declared.

(2) This prohibition remains in effect until the declaration expires or is terminated.

(D) When notice of an abnormal disruption of the market is given, it is unlawful and a violation of this article for a person or his agent or employee to:

(1) rent or sell or offer to rent or sell a commodity at an unconscionable price in any area of this State where there is an abnormal disruption in the market; or

(2) impose unconscionable prices for the rental or lease of a dwelling unit, including a motel or hotel unit, or other temporary lodging, or self-storage facility in any area of this State where there is an abnormal disruption in the market.

(E) When notice of an abnormal disruption of the market is given, the prohibitions in this section are in effect for fifteen days unless notice of an abnormal disruption in the market is earlier retracted or renewed. The Attorney General may renew a notice of abnormal disruption of the market for an unlimited number of successive fifteen-day periods.

(F) A trade association, corporation, or partnership may register as an agent for the purpose of being notified when the Attorney General gives, retracts, or renews notice of an abnormal disruption of the market. A trade association may designate up to three persons to be notified on behalf of the organization's

members. The trade association, corporation, or partnership is responsible for maintaining current information for the designated agents. The Attorney General's Office shall notify the registered agents simultaneous to giving, retracting, or renewing notice of an abnormal disruption of the market.

(G) A price increase approved by an appropriate government agency is not a violation of this section.

(H) A price increase that reflects the usual and customary seasonal fluctuation in the price of the subject essential commodity or the rental or lease of a dwelling unit or self-storage facility is not a violation of this section.

(I) This section does not apply to sales by growers, producers, or processors of raw or processed food products, except for retail sales of those products to the ultimate consumer within the area of the declared state of emergency or disaster.

(J) This section does not preempt the powers of local government, except that the evidentiary standards contained in this section are the sole evidentiary standards to be adopted by ordinance of a local government to restrict price gouging. In the event a local government declares a state of emergency or disaster or experiences an abnormal disruption of the market in which the area includes all or a portion of the area under the local government's jurisdiction, and restricts price gouging during that time, the governmental entity must notify the Governor's Office of the declaration. The Governor's Office must notify registered agents simultaneously at the time of the declaration and also at its expiration or termination.

(K) In addition to all other remedies provided in this article, a person who wilfully and knowingly violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

(L) A person who is charged with committing an action in violation of this section may present evidence relating to, but not limited to, his knowledge or intent when committing the action to rebut any presumption or evidence of violation of this section.

HISTORY: 2002 Act No. 339, Section 21, eff July 2, 2002; 2006 Act No. 374, Section 1, eff June 14, 2006.